

~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]~~No Foreign Dissem/Background Use Only~~

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SC No. 01906/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
29 January 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Pueblo Sitrep No. 17
(As of 7 A.M. EST)

1. Pyongyang has made no further commentary on the Pueblo incident. Late yesterday, Pyongyang radio merely quoted foreign press statements--mostly Communist--favorable to its position.
2. Ambassador Goldberg on 28 January proposed to the Soviet ambassador to the UN that the Security Council call for the immediate return of the Pueblo and its crew, with the understanding that a return would not prejudice further UN examination and judgment of the case. The Soviets reacted negatively to this proposal but stated they were not closing the door to Security Council action encouraging a peaceful settlement.
3. A South Korean Foreign Ministry official, referring to reported Soviet suggestions for an exchange of captured North Korean infiltrators for the crew of the Pueblo, (see Sitrep No. 14) said yesterday that such a proposal was "utterly preposterous." However, the ROK Public Information Minister said that it was premature to comment on the subject since no formal proposal on the exchange had been made.
4. The UN Command in Korea reported four fire-fights yesterday in the US 2nd Division sector of the Demilitarized Zone, according to unconfirmed press reports. No US casualties were reported; North Korean losses are not known. It is not clear whether the incidents involved the infiltration/exfiltration of agents or harassment raids from the North.

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5. American Red Cross officials suggest that the presence in Korea of American Red Cross President General Collins might provide the occasion for an approach to the North Korean Red Cross on behalf of the Pueblo captives. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Such an approach might be useful in highlighting the humanitarian aspect of the illegal detention of US citizens, although it is under no illusion that the move would succeed in freeing the men. [REDACTED]

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